



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF THE DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

ODHH Monthly Bulletin

September 2010

A message from Director Lisa Kornberg

One of the most important freedoms of being an American is our right to contribute to the political process. It is our VOTE that sets the direction for federal, state and local governments - and our responsibilities as citizens that preserves our Democracy.

As summer winds down and we move into the fall - it is critical that we look at the opportunities available to help us exercise our freedom - from becoming educated voters to learning how to prepare our families and communities for an emergency.

As you read through this month's Bulletin, take a moment to take inventory of your own involvements and contributions. This is YOUR time to make a difference.

Thank you,

-Lisa

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Early Voting Debuts in Maryland



This election, the first choice you will make is which day to vote.

Who can vote early?

Any registered voter can vote during early voting.

When can I vote early?

For the primary election, early voting centers will be open starting Friday, September 3, 2010 through Thursday, September 9, 2010, except for Sunday, September 5th when early voting centers are closed.

For the general election, early voting centers will be open starting Friday, October 22, 2010 through Thursday, October 28, 2010, except for Sunday, October 24th when early voting centers are closed.

Early voting centers will be open from 10 am until 8 pm each day of early voting. Anyone in line at 8 pm will be allowed to vote.



Last week, Governor O'Malley announced that for the fifth straight month, Maryland experienced job growth. In July, Maryland employers added 500 jobs to their payrolls as unemployment remained steady - about 25 percent lower than the national average. This marks the best performing January - July period in Maryland since 1999. Maryland's ability to sustain job growth, which is now triple the rate of the rest of the nation, is encouraging considering that payrolls in the rest of the nation have declined over the past two months. The continued progress of Maryland's recovery depends on business owners, farmers, and other employers across the State.

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[Maryland Advisory Council on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Meeting](#)

How will I vote during early voting?

Voting during early voting is the same as voting on election day. When you get to the early voting center, you will check in to vote and vote your ballot.

Like election day voting, you will vote on the touchscreen voting system. With a touchscreen voting system, you touch the screen to make, change, and review selections and cast a ballot.

There will be instructions available at the early voting centers to familiarize you with the ballot. You may ask an election judge to explain how to vote, but you must cast your vote alone, unless you are unable to do so because you have a disability or are unable to read or write the English language.

For more information of early voting, visit

http://www.elections.state.md.us/voting/early_voting.html.

Wednesday, September 8

11 AM - 2 PM

MSD- Elementary School
Frederick, MD

Town Hall Meeting

Tuesday, September 14

7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Rockville Library
Rockville, MD

Town Hall Meeting

Tuesday, September 21

10:30 AM - 12 PM

Hearing and Speech Agency
Baltimore, MD

September is National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month (NPM)! This awareness month is sponsored by the Ready Campaign in partnership with Citizen Corps and the Ad Council.

NPM is designed to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities.

September 2010 is the seventh annual NPM. This year will focus on encouraging Americans to work together to take concrete actions toward emergency preparedness.

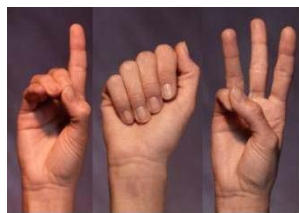
We are encouraging all Americans to join the readiness team and truly help themselves, their neighbors, and

their communities be Ready. For more information about NPM, visit

<http://www.ready.gov/america/npm10/index.html>.

ODHH recently revamped the Emergency Preparedness section of our website. A new v-log, fact sheets, and a library of accessible videos about emergency preparedness are just a few of the new things you will find by visiting

http://odhh.maryland.gov/emergency_prep.html.

Deaf Awareness Week is September 19-25

Deaf Awareness week is held annually during the last full week (Sunday through Saturday) of September in commemoration of the first World Congress of the Deaf held that week in 1951. The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) is an international organization composed of 120 national associations of the deaf which, in collaboration with the United Nations, serves all countries in the enhancement of the social, economic

and cultural lives of deaf and hard of hearing people. Some of the objectives of Deaf Awareness Week are to learn about types, degrees, and causes of hearing loss and other audiological information, to become familiar with terminology related to deafness, to understand the functions of assistive devices used by people who are deaf or hard of hearing; to better understand an interpreter's role, and to have a better understanding of deaf culture.

If you know of any events taking place in Maryland for Deaf Awareness Week, send the information to ODHH at odhh@gov.state.md.us and we will forward the information to our distribution list.

2010 General Election Gubernatorial Candidates Forum on Disability Issues

The Maryland Disabilities Forum (MDF), a cross-disability network of individuals, advocacy organizations, and agencies supporting people with

disabilities announced the 2010 General Election Gubernatorial Candidates Forum to be held on Monday, October 11, 2010 from 2 p.m to 4 p.m. at the BWI Marriott Hotel.

Gubernatorial Candidates - Maryland State Governor Martin O'Malley and former Governor Robert Ehrlich have been invited to participate in the event. Both candidates will be asked to address their respective platforms on disability issues. In the 2006 Gubernatorial Candidates Forum, the MDF drew an enthusiastic crowd upwards of 800 people to hear candidates share their vision, answer questions, and distribute their position papers for review and consideration.

Maryland Disabilities Forum is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public awareness of disability issues. The Gubernatorial Candidates Forum provides an opportunity for Marylanders with disabilities to hear from gubernatorial candidates about the policies that affect their lives. The Forum serves to keep Maryland voters with disabilities, and the general public, well informed and active in connecting with the community and with each other.

The general public is invited and encouraged to attend. In active attendance will be individuals with disabilities, family members and those who care for and about people with disabilities, advocates, community organizations, agencies, and businesses. There is no registration or cost associated with this nonpartisan event.

Visit the Forum's website to register for the event at www.mddf.org; details on volunteer opportunities for the day of the event are also available; transportation information will be posted as it becomes available.

Sign Language Interpreters and CART are being provided.

21st International Congress on the Education of the Deaf addresses issues of the 1880 Milan Congress

At the opening of The International Congress on the Education of the Deaf (ICED) 2010 Congress, July 19th, organizers addressed the Deaf Community's concerns regarding the Milan resolutions of 1880, which banned sign language in educational programs for deaf children.

"Partners in Education', the theme of ICED 2010, emphasizes the importance of working together," said Claire Anderson, Congress Chair. It is with respectful partnerships of educators, parents, students, and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities that we will maximize the opportunities for meeting the educational needs of our students. To this end, the Vancouver ICED 2010 Organizing Committee and the British Columbia Deaf Community worked together to develop a statement, which addressed the issues concerning Milan.

This statement "A New Era: Deaf Participation and Collaboration" was introduced to Congress participants as the beginning of a dialogue to promote healing and set the path for future collaboration. The statement:

- Rejected all resolutions passed at the Milan Congress that denied the inclusion of sign language in educational programs for Deaf students
- Acknowledged with regret the detrimental effects of the Milan Congress, and
- Called upon all Nations to ensure that educational programs for the Deaf accept and respect all languages and all forms of communication.

The audience, both deaf and hearing, spontaneously responded with an outpouring of emotion and a standing ovation. "History has been made today and the words of the Vancouver Statement can replace the hurt caused by the Milan decision," said Joe McLaughlin, subcommittee chair, in his closing remarks.

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[Questions? Comments? Feedback?](#)

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